

## CONSERVATION

We work in a diverse, ancient and irreplaceable environment. Our actions can leave lasting impressions on the landscape and spoil it for future generations. Protecting and promoting the protection of the countryside must be evident by our own actions and we must instil those same principles with our groups.

It must start at the planning process and involve the group as much as possible, the plan to minimise the impact that our venture will have must continue from initial conception to review.

- Avoid paper waste, information where possible should be sent electronically.
- Travel to the hills in a minibus as opposed to multiple cars.
- Be aware of car parking; do not block gateways and country lanes.
- Use popular surfaced paths where possible, sticking to stony ground.
- Be aware of footpath erosion.
- Resist the temptation to cut corners.
- Avoid scree running.
- Cooperate with diversions.
- Use gates and stiles.
- Do not climb walls & fences.
- Do not remove stones from dry stonewalls.
- Minimise rubbish prior to departure.
- Do not carry breakables.
- Carry all litter out from walk, inc. fruit.
- Do not bury it, as animals will dig it up.
- Do not start any fires.
- Be aware that in dry period's fires need little help to ignite.
- Cairns can provide useful way-marks but not necessarily where you want to go, don't build new ones or add to existing ones.
- Be aware of bird restrictions, nesting, lambing and the welfare of livestock & wild animals.
- Remember, the law protects birds, plants & animals!
- Don't take up gardening in the hills; it is a delicate ecosystem that needs to remain balanced.
- Wild camping can be an exhilarating experience, remember the impact we can have, sanitation, erosion, rubbish, water pollution.
- Toilet waste should be buried or carried out. Toilet paper needs to be burnt, buried or carried out.
- Recycle waste litter from rucksacks.

All of the above seem to be Do Not's, there's also a lot you can do in the countryside; we just have to make sure it remains there by our actions and education of others.

## THE COUNTRY CODE

- Be Safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.

- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.